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COUNTRY Greece

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SUBJECT Internal Security and KKK Activities

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25X1A6a

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

25X1X6

Free Greece Zone

1. The KKE plans to set up a Free Greece Zone in the Descoate-Mavreli mountainous area similar to that which was in existence during the occupation. It is believed that the object of demolitions and road mining by armed bands in the Elasson area is to disrupt communications as a preliminary to the realization of this plan. There is a definite exodus of military (ELAS) members of KKE to the mountains in the north from Athens and other populated centers. The idea of an ELAS-held area in northern Greece seems to be gaining ground.

Law and Order

2. Tones: Measures under the special security law which had been realized during the plebiscite have now been brought back into force and the security authorities are embarking on an ambitious program involving a security scrutiny of some 20,000 people in Salonica alone. On 13 September, the editorial staff of "Laiki Phoni", who had been arrested on 17 August for publishing subversive articles, were tried by special courts-martial. Sentences from 3 to 5 years were passed on three members of the editing staff; they were also fined heavily. The paper, which was deprived of its title for one year, reappeared the following day as the "Nea Laiki Phoni".

3. Country: [REDACTED] that regular armed forces will have a very hard time proving effective against the guerrilla methods of the armed bands - methods which were highly efficient against well organized German and Italian forces during the occupation. [REDACTED] opinion, the only means of obtaining good results against these bands will be the creation, unofficially, of strong government armed bands such as the Sourlas band which can use the same methods of operation as the "bandits of the Left". However, during the occupation the bands had a certain support from the population, whereas this support is not now evident or willingly given. At any rate, there is no question that several right-wing armed bands are operating in the affected areas with complete but tacit government acquiescence and arming. These bands have not as yet accomplished anything of merit against the leftist bands other than to give to the left ostensible justification for its defensive "stand".
4. Eastern Macedonia continues to remain relatively quiet and the guerrilla stand in Western Thrace would appear to be well in hand, as bands are reported to be dispersing and individual bandits in increasing numbers are surrendering to the authorities.
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